

REMARKS

Claims 1-8 are all the claims pending in the application and have been rejected under § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ohta, et al. in view of Woo. In view of the above amendments to the claims and the comments which follow, Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Claim 1 has been amended to include the features of claims 3 and 4 and to include additional features which are discussed on page 4, first paragraph and illustrated in Figures 2, 3, 6 and 7 of the application.

Amended claim 1 recites that a recess is formed in the first surface (which is disposed on one of the casing and rotor) which is adapted to face the second surface (which is disposed on the other of said casing and rotor), wherein a pin protrudes from the bottom of the recess (see figs. 3, 6 and 7) and wherein the pivotable element is pivotably mounted on the pin of the recess and leans against the bottom of the recess (see figs. 2, 6, and 7) in such a way that the pivotable element is able to oscillate in the bottom of the recess, the pin portion protruding across the first surface for engaging the elongate groove.

According to Ohta et al., a recess ("pin retaining portion") 63 is formed on a surface of the outer case 35 of the rotary damper for mounting an arm element thereon. However, the arm element ("operating pin") 64 is configured as a rod-like element and has a Z-like shape. The recess 63 has not any pin protruding from the bottom of the recess. One end of the arm element is pivotably mounted in the recess (therefore, is not pivotably mounted on a pin protruding from the bottom of the recess) and leans against a surface outside the bottom of the recess (*See*, Fig. 2).

Therefore, a novel arrangement of arm element and recess features the rotary damper of the present invention with respect to the device of Ohta et al. This novel arrangement brings some technical advantages to the device:

- the overall thickness of the damper can be reduced, since the arm element has a through hole for mounting on a protruding pin, and not a protruding end for mounting in a corresponding recess,
- the damper is more robust, since the arm element leans entirely against the bottom of the recess;
- the damper is more reliable, since the arm element is guided by the bottom of the recess.

The device of Woo does not disclose this novel arrangement of arm element and recess.

Therefore, the combination of Ohta et al. and Woo does not teach or suggest the invention as recited by the amended claim 1.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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